



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

**HUDSON MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL COCAINE DISTRIBUTION AND
WEAPON CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Julian Osorio

Concord, New Hampshire -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. Attorney General Peter Heed, and N.H. Drug Task Force Commander James Norris announced that **Julian Osorio**, date of birth of 12/19/49, of Hudson, NH was convicted Friday, May 9, 2003, of cocaine distribution and weapon possession charges.

OSORIO, a previously convicted cocaine dealer, entered a guilty plea to an information before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr., admitting that he sold cocaine to an undercover N.H. Drug Task Force informant on three occasions during August and September of 2002, and that he unlawfully possessed a .32 caliber handgun seized by authorities who had executed a search warrant at his Hudson residence on September 19, 2002. Convicted felons are prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms.

Judge DiClerico detained OSORIO without bail pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for August 7, 2003 in the U.S. District Court in Concord. OSORIO, who is not a citizen of the United States, faces a potential maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, as well as possible deportation to his native Colombia.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level cocaine dealers operating in New Hampshire's cities and towns. We will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

U.S. Attorney Colantuono also stated: "Julian Osorio's conviction also exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by

Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of unlawful drug traffickers is one of our main objectives. This office will vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we continue to implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the N.H. Attorney General's Drug Task Force. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDETF").